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Friday, February 22, 1952.

Washington's birthday. No holiday here. At nine o'clock I left for the French Embassy, where we had a conference with Messrs. Faure and other members of the French Government on the French military budget. This consumed most of the morning.

E. and I had lunch at the Aviz with Anne O'Hare McCormick and Cy Sulzberger.

I attended the plenary session of the NATO Council at three o'clock. The most important matter was the ratification of the EDC report as presented by Schuman. He made an excellent presentation, Dean delivered a graceful speech, other Foreign Ministers made comments, and the deed was done. This, to my mind, is the most significant political action (outside of war) taken in Europe for centuries, assuming that later the treaty will be ratified by Parliaments.

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Afterwards, there was an international news conference, at which Acheson, Pearson, Eden and Schuman spoke of the

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great importance of what had occurred to-day.

To-night we went to a dinner for about 350 people at the Quelus Palace, given by that extraordinary dictator, Dr. Salazar, who for approximately 25 years has controlled the destinies of this country.

The palace, built by King John V., is very, very beautiful, with a wing that looks like Austrian baroque architecture. The gardens were illuminated, the fountains playing. The chandeliers and wall brackets for candles were marvellous, as was much of the furniture. There was a Louis XV, bamboo set with lacquer seats that we found exceptionally attractive.

E. has had for some days a raging grippe, but gets about just the same.

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